

Foreword

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Forests provide many tangible products, such as wood, non-wood and energy products and environmental services—including landscape amenity, carbon sequestration and recreational services—that people increasingly demand in Europe. Enterprises that supply these goods and services improve the overall welfare of societies and citizens. Acknowledging that enterprises are efficient and flexible in supporting and developing the *demanded* forests uses, more attention is needed on forest-based entrepreneurship research. Unfortunately forest-based entrepreneurship has not been a major issue in forestry research in Europe thus far.

Forest-based entrepreneurship was the focus of COST Action E30 entitled ‘Economic integration of urban consumers’ demand and rural forestry production’, carried out between September 2002 and 2006. Altogether 21 European countries participated in this work, the main research findings of which are reported in this special issue. The results of the Action were initially presented in its final conference in January 2006 and published in the conference proceedings. Some of the papers published in the proceedings have been extensively revised and modified and included in this special issue so that the papers are made more widely available.

The special issue focuses on forest-based entrepreneurship from various perspectives: Two papers raise attention on forest owners’ attitudes and values, and forest land ownership and property rights, which are fundamentally important issues for any efforts to support forest-based entrepreneurship. Three papers focus on non-wood forest products and services from marketing and innovation perspectives. Two papers make an attempt to develop the taxonomy and indicators

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of non-wood forest products and services, which are needed to improve the classification of information on these products and services.

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